

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
January 3, 2007  
Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan  
10:00 am — 3:00 pm**

**Minutes**

Delegates Present: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Michael Beach, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Doris Higgs, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Maggie Kolk, Christopher Korbel, Shari Krishnan, Tom Langdon, Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Chuck Saur, Richard Spring, Susan Steinbacher, Chuck Stockwell, Barbara Stork, Claudia Werner, Michael Yocum

Alternates Present:

Ex-Officio Present: Mark Larson, Jacquelyn Thompson

MDE Staff Present: Meredith Hines, Ann Omans, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Beth Steenwyk, Pat West

Guests Present: Sarah Calahan, Sharon Dietrich, Mischelle Driscoll, Charo Hulleza, Ellen Sogruue Hunan, Linda Keway, Alex Thompson, Lyke Thompson, Harvalee Saunto, Janet Scheetz

SEAC Consultant: Sandi Laham

- I. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.
- II. Roll Call  
Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.
- III. Introduction of Guests  
Guests were introduced.
- IV. Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda  
(Note: To request an amendment, the purpose and desired outcome must be stated.)  
  
The agenda was approved.
- V. Amend/Approve December 6, 2006 Minutes  
**Motion by Jan Van Gasse, seconded by Jerry Oermann to strike the sentence "They will focus on the short term consequences of high school reform" in reference to Group I Subcommittee.  
Motion carried.**

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Member Comment

Tom Langdon asked the SEAC to consider an alternate meeting date for the April meeting because it falls during spring break. Members commented that there is no one time when all members can be present.

VIII. Chairperson's Report

Chuck welcomed participants and greeted them for the New Year.

IX. State Report – Jacquelyn Thompson

- The State Board of Education adopted a Revised Policy on Seclusion and Restraint. Members were sent an e-mail. Dissemination, guidance and technical assistance regarding implementation of that policy will be a Department wide effort. There will be future presentations on this issue for the SEAC.
- The State Legislature enacted a technical amendment to the High School Graduation Requirements under Section 5 which references a personal curriculum very specific to a student receiving special education programs and services. The personal curriculum will align and support the educational development plan and the transition plan. As guidance and technical assistance for implementation of the amendment, the SEAC will be informed via a further presentation.

X. Reports from Ex-Officio Members

There were no Ex-Officio reports.

XI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Richard Spring reported that his group has further questions about the Seclusion and Restraint Policy

XII. Information Items<sup>1</sup>

There were no information items.

XIII. Action Items – Recommendation to SEAC on SPP Indicator #5 LRE – Chuck Saur

**Motion by Jerry Oermann, seconded by Richard Spring with regard to Indicator 5 – Least Restrictive Environment, that SEAC advise the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services that the improvement targets as presented are in excess of reasonable expectations and that the target should be adjusted taking into consideration the concerns outlined in our rationale.**

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Discussion followed. Areas of concern were:

- that general education teachers will disagree with having special education students in their classrooms.
- that the definition of online learning be more clearly defined

A motion was proposed to amend the word "GOOD OPPORTUNITY" to POTENTIALLY GOOD OPPORTUNITY."

- Does online learning meet the individual needs of students?
- What impact will LRE have on individual needs?
- What are the unintended consequences of online learning?

**Roll Call Vote was taken on the motion as it stands with no amendments.**

**Vote: Yes 17 No 3 Abstention 1 Motion carried.**

XIV. Member Announcements - none

XV. SEAC Learning: Chuck Saur reviewed the process for voting on each indicator. Discussion followed.

A. Presentation on SPP Indicator 4, Part B. - Rates of Suspension and Expulsion – Janet Scheetz

- New subindicator – Requires reporting data by race and ethnicity. What is significant discrepancy in rates of suspension and expulsions of greater than 10 days in any one school year for students with disabilities by race and ethnicity?
- Define significant discrepancy as a ratio greater than 2.0 %
- Federally defined target, state definition. 2.0 is the issue.
- Disproportionality
- Reporting accuracy of new data generally improves over time
- 12% of districts reported

B. Presentation on SPP Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement – Sharon Dietrich, Lyke Thompson

- New indicator, establishing baseline this year
- Excellent opportunity for OSE/EIS to set expectation that School will focus on family involvement
- Over past two years activities have taken place in two areas that address this indicator
- Restructuring the format and methods in which information and support are provided to parents and families. In 2004 parent groups, surveys, and telephone interviews took place regarding what parents expected and desired from the education system. The analysis of this information served as a basis for the Request for Proposals to develop and implement a statewide support system for parents and families of children with disabilities. Project was awarded in the fall of 2006.
- Conducting statewide surveys of parents/families of children and school age students with IEPs that would be used to provide

summary information and date for this Annual Performance Report. Lyke Thompson presented this data.

- This survey work is also used for the CIMS' Service Provider Self-Review (SPSR) Cohort 2. It will be collected annually.
- 24,000 surveys were sent to parents of all preschool children (age 3-5)
- 86,000 surveys were sent to parents of school age students (ages 6-26)
- By the time frame of November 1, 2006 – over 12,000 surveys had been returned
- Michigan's overall average score was 518
- NCSEAM used stakeholders to set a national standard of 600
- Michigan's percent at or above this standard is 21% (baseline data)

Discussion followed.

C. Presentation on SPP Indicator 18,- Resolution Session Settlement Agreements - Harvatee Saunto

- OSEP recommends 75-80% rate for mediations.
- They use mediation standard. But the resolution session is different.
- They also didn't use a timeline.
- States are similar to us, the majority within our region are very similar to our figures. The Zoomerang survey is on the web. 16 of the 18 agreed with the established targets.
- Other states don't see how the numbers will change that much.
- Some states are using a facilitator for the resolution sessions.
- Written request. Must be held in 15 days. The resolution sessions can extend 30 days. You can, by written agreement, do several things to resolve the situation.

Discussion followed.

XVI. Subcommittee Work Sessions on SPP Indicators  
Subcommittee Work began at noon.

XVII. Reconvene Committee of the Whole to Vote on recommendations for SPP Indicators  
Committee of the Whole reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

XVIII. Subcommittee Report-Out

Group 1 Report: Suspension and Expulsion – Beverly Baroni-Yeglic Reporting

Data is still coming in for suspension/expulsion. The group could not say yes or no based on information received today. Talked about issues and thoughts of recommendations:

- Using data of ALL DISABILITIES to set target. 2.62% Baseline
- More aggressively target the outliers in specific ethnicities-racial groups  
Bring blacks and Hispanics-lower
- Comments: no general education comparison for these numbers because that is not required by NCLB
- Follow up analysis is desired. Survey of those reporting 0.
- Suspension is always going to be here.
- Definition of suspension/expulsion varies from district to district.

**Motion made and seconded with regard to Indicator #4 – Suspension and Expulsion that given the data as presented, SEAC recommend that the MDE use the ALL DISABILITY data to set initial targets, placing particular emphasis on improving the data during the 2006-2007 school year, and given those data, more aggressively set improvement targets with regard to specific ethnicities/races.**

Discussion followed.

**Vote: Yes 15 No 2 Abstention 0 Motion carried.**

Group 2 Report: Parent Involvement – Tom Langdon

- Aggressive approach to get parents to participate, yet have a reality base for success in the whole endeavor.
- Increase from 21% to 33%.
- Why not try to do our best, enthusiasm
- Communication could be a variable
- Qualitative issues

**Motion made by Tom Langdon, seconded by Cristopher Korbel that the SEAC advise the MDE Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services that the target for SPP Indicator #8 be increased to 33% by 2010-2011 with interim targets set as follows:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Degree of Change</u>
2006-2007		0% change from baseline
2007-2008		2% change from baseline
2008-2009		2% increase over prior year
2009-2010		4% increase over prior year
2010-2011		4% increase over prior year

**Further, we recognize the ambitious nature of this increase from its current level of 21% of parents reporting perception of facilitation in involvement to 33% or a 50% increase in the number of parents reporting that perception.**

**Vote: Yes 13 No 3 Abstention 1 Motion carried.**

Group 3 Report: SPP Indicator #18 – Resolution Session Settlement Agreements  
- Bob Hove

- Targets are too high.
- Only 1 year of data collection.
- 15 days is too short to reach settlement
- Need three years of data.
- Resolution sessions are only one of several methods available of solving due process disputes.
- Mediation works.
- Encourage the use of facilitators.

**Motion made by Bob Hove, seconded by Julie Daggett Lawrence, that the SEAC advise the Michigan Department of Education to adjust the targets as follows:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Degree of Change</u>
2005-2006	36%	Baseline
2006-2007	36%	0%
2007-2008	36.5%	0.5%
2008-2009	37%	0.5%
2009-2010	38%	1.0%
2010-2011	39%	1.0%

Discussion followed.

**Vote: Yes 19 No Abstention Motion carried.**

XIX. Process Check

Chuck Saur thanked the SEAC for their hard work today. He spoke about SEAC succession planning for executive committee. Those members who might be interested in being on the executive committee may want to become more involved.

XX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**Special Education Advisory Committee  
Executive Committee  
January 3, 2007  
8:30 a.m.  
Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan**

**Minutes**

Members Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Bob Hove, Jerry Oermann, Chuck Saur

MDE Staff present: Meredith Hines, Ann Omans, Jacquelyn Thompson, Pat West

1. Review of Today's Agenda
  - Subcommittee work will focus on indicators.
    - Must have rationale, why with agreement
    - Rationale and recommendation with disagreement
    - Measureable and rigorous recommendations
    - Executive Committee will be facilitators for Subcommittees
  - a. Invited Presentations – SPP 4 Janet Sheetz, 8 Sharon Dietrich and Lyke Thompson, 18 Harvalee Saunto
  - b. Chairperson's Report – Chuck Saur
  - c. State Department Report – Jacquelyn Thompson
    - Adoption of Revised Policy on Seclusion/Restraint
    - Technical Amendment to High School Graduation Requirements
  - d. Information Items<sup>1</sup> (if any)
  - e. Action Items - Recommendation to SEAC on SPP Indicator #5 – Chuck Saur
2. Future Agenda Development for February 7
  - Recap of Work on SPP Indicators
  - Overview of New Michigan Rules and Regulations
  - Update on OSE/EIS Annual Performance Report
3. Other Issues
  - How could Executive Committee Prepare new SEAC members
  - New member solicitation letter – Summer Address needed
  - Hearings Reports Summary – When to present and Method of presentation
4. Adjournment (Executive Committee will debrief following today's afternoon Committee of the Whole meeting.)

***Next Mailing Date from OSE-EIS:  
January 24, 2007***

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